

## Corner: UNEP/ SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

### Activities ahead for 2004

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#### International Life Cycle Panel – Decisions for 2004

On 5 December 2003, the International Life Cycle Panel (ILCP) met in Paris, in the form of a mixture of conference call and face-to-face meeting, to discuss the proposed task forces and to agree on a work plan and the budget for 2004.

#### Setting-up of task forces

The ILCP agreed that with the exception of multiple participants from the same organisation, the burden of refusing a candidate should rest with the ILCP. As the work would involve mainly e-mail exchanges with few face-to-face meetings with all task force members, the size of the task force could be relatively large. The process should be inclusive, but task force members have to be aware at the start that their membership status can possibly be reconsidered in the future based on their individual contribution. Moreover, it was recommended that the category of agenda members be created and that qualified persons interested in various task forces have the possibility to do so if they are able to contribute essentially to more than one task force. The secretariat was asked to continue with its efforts to increase the involvement of experts from regions that are currently underrepresented.

#### Key deliverables

The ILCP reinforced the importance of the following key deliverables: Booklet 'Why take a life cycle approach?', Report 'Life cycle approaches – The road from Theory to Practice', LCM handbook, LCI database registry and LCIA information system. Furthermore, the ILCP endorses in principle the preparation of reports on LCM case studies, LCI data quality and Recommended generic LCIA factors as well as the elaboration of training material.

#### Co-sponsored workshops and conferences

**1 – 3 April 2004.** Eco-Efficiency Conference 'Eco-efficiency for sustainability – Quantified methods for decision making', Leiden University and other partners, the Netherlands

**13 – 15 April 2004.** Life Cycle Assessment & Integrated Waste Management Workshop, organised by European Commission Enlargement Action Program and other partners, Prague, Czech Republic

**15. April 2004.** Expert Workshop on non-ferrous metals essentiality and bioavailability in LCIA, organised by TNO and other partners, place to be determined

**6 – 8 September 2004.** International Conference 'Electronics Goes Green', organised by Fraunhofer Institute and other partners, Berlin, Germany

**25 – 27 October 2004.** APEC Life cycleworkshop at Ecobalance conference, Tsukuba, Japan

**15 – 18 November 2004.** Symposium on sustainable production and use of natural resources as part of the SETAC 4th World Congress and 25th Annual Meeting in North America, Portland, Oregon, USA

#### First Task Forces launched

##### Meetings planned in Prague and Portland

12 Task Forces have been identified as being ready to start:

- LCM 1: LCM Handbook
- LCM2: Life cycle based product development
- LCM3: Communication of life cycle information
- LCI1: LCI Database registry
- LCI2: LCI Database characteristics and quality
- LCI3: LCI Methodological consistency
- LCI5: LCI Databases and capacity building
- LCIA1: LCIA Information system
- LCIA2: Natural resources and land use
- LCIA3: Toxic impacts
- LCIA4: Transboundary impacts
- CCA1: Integration of social aspects into LCA

More than half of these Task Forces were launched before the end of February. The task force leaders are contacting the members to initiate the work. As a first step, a refined work plan (based on the ToRs prepared as part of the definition studies) will have to be prepared in advance of the next meeting of the International Life Cycle Panel, scheduled for 23 April, 2004.

In the case of the proposed Task Forces on Management and Stakeholder engagement along the life cycle a merged group of interested experts will provisionally start as part of the LCM

Working Group led by the programme manager. For the Task Force on 'Integrated resource and waste management' the secretariat will build an exploration group in 2004. With regard to the other proposed Task Forces the number of expressions of interest received was not sufficient to set up a Task Force.

Most of the 12 task forces will have meetings the afternoon of **22 April 2004 in Prague** and **18 November 2004 in Portland**. The meetings will be part of the above mentioned work plans. It is clear that not all task force members will come to such a meeting, but these events should stimulate the overall task force activities. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the next Annual Meetings of SETAC Europe and North America.

#### Symposium to share Experiences on Sustainable Production, Use and Recycling of Natural Resources

Learning about tools and measures to enhance the sustainability of natural resources in a life cycle perspective

Under the auspices of the UNEP/ SETAC Life Cycle Initiative, SETAC is interested in continuing to promote and provide opportunities for its members to share and exchange information on the advances and applications of different life cycle approaches to improve decision making in public and private enterprises along their journey towards sustainability. To this end, a number of inter-related sessions on this topic will be offered